

3.2 DRINKING INVOLVEMENT

This section presents a series of data displays which identify drinking involvement in Missouri's traffic crash experience. Drinking-involved traffic crashes are defined as any crash in which one or more drivers or pedestrians were drinking and, in the opinion of the investigating officer, their intoxicated condition contributed to the cause of the crash. Data displays also are presented which identify characteristics of the drinking driver or pedestrian involved in these traffic crashes.

There are strong indications that investigating officers under-report drinking involvement as a contributing factor in traffic crashes. Under-reporting exists for a number of reasons. First, symptoms of drinking may be masked from the investigating officer. The person's physical instability may be attributed to the shock of being in a crash or resulting physical injuries rather than to intoxication. Second, the investigating officer may not have an opportunity to observe or interview the person for an extended time period in cases where they require immediate medical attention and are transported from the scene. Finally, in cases where the investigating officer does determine a person has been drinking, there may not be enough evidence to indicate that their intoxicated condition contributed to the cause of the traffic crash. As a result, the apparent problem of under-reporting should be taken into consideration when evaluating data presented in this section.

2001 SUMMARY ANALYSIS

- Of all 2001 Missouri traffic crashes, 4.7% were drinking related. Of all fatal traffic crashes, 25.2% were drinking related. A total of 266 persons were killed and 6,076 were injured in drinking-related traffic crashes.
- There was a decrease of 0.3% in the rate of change when comparing total 2001 drinking-related traffic crashes with those in 2000. However, there was an increase of 9.5% when comparing 2001 fatal drinking-related traffic crashes with 2000.
- In 2001, one person was killed or injured in drinking-related traffic crashes every 1.4 hours in the State of Missouri.
- Of all drinking-related traffic crashes, 59.5% occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday and 65.8% occurred between 7:00 P.M. and 2:59 A.M.
- Of the persons drinking in 2001 traffic crashes, 98.8% were driving a motorized vehicle, 0.1% were driving a non-motorized vehicle, and 1.0% were pedestrians.
- Of the drinking drivers of motorized vehicles, 80.8% were male and 19.2% were female. The average age of drinking drivers of motorized vehicles was 33.4 years.
- Of the drinking drivers of non-motorized vehicles, 91.7% were male and 8.3% were female. The average age was 35.8 years.
- Of the drinking pedestrians, 77.8% were male and 22.2% were female. The average age of drinking pedestrians was 37.0 years.
- Of the drinking drivers of motorized and non-motorized vehicles involved in 2001 crashes, 55.8% were driving an automobile, 27.9% were driving a pickup truck, and 9.0% were driving a sport utility vehicle at the time of the crash.

2001 MISSOURI TRAFFIC CRASHES

DRINKING INVOLVEMENT

	FATAL	%	PERSONAL INJURY	%	PROPERTY DAMAGE	%	TOTAL	%	DRINKING DRIVERS / PEDESTRIANS ²		
									KILLED	INJURED	TOTAL NUMBER ¹
DRINKING INVOLVED	241	25.2	3,924	8.4	4,228	3.2	8,393	4.7	266	6,076	183
NO DRINKING INVOLVED	715	74.8	42,870	91.6	127,966	96.8	171,551	95.3	815	65,563	-
UNKNOWN ³	17	-	1,528	-	7,148	-	8,693	-	17	1,979	-
TOTAL	973	100.0	48,322	100.0	139,342	100.0	188,637	100.0	1,098	73,618	183
											3,194

¹This statistic indicates the total number of persons killed and injured in a crash where one or more drivers or pedestrians were drinking.

²This statistic indicates the number of drinking drivers or pedestrians killed and injured.

³Crashes were classified as unknown if there was no indication that drinking was involved and the contributing circumstances of one or more drivers or pedestrians were not known.

TABLE 3.2.1